

poverty has made her temporarily unfit.

The real friends of the poor, the advocates of mothers' pensions, believe that the mother should have the cause of her unfitness removed and not her children. Henry Neil.

## Lord Ballyrot in Slangland



Once I sought a hotel typist, and deferentially requested her to inscribe some correspondence on her typewriting machine, you know. Imagine my consternation when she said:

"Say, Unkie, make yourself to home. I'm the speediest little shorthand slinger that ever landed a fish with a pothook, and beelieve, if you're lookin' for classy spellin' and neat whackin' on the old iron piano, just begin on the distashe thing and watch my slim, aristocratic digits do that key-board buck-and-wing!"

My word!

## DIARY OF FATHER TIME

There is a large key preserved in the arsenal at Venice, known as the Key of Death. It is so constructed that the handle may be turned around, revealing a small spring, which on being pressed, drives a very fine needle with considerable force from the other end. This needle is so delicate that the flesh closes over the wound immediately, leaving no mark.

It was invented by Tibaldo, a stranger, who established himself in Venice as a merchant in 1600. Becoming enamoured of the daughter of an ancient house, he sought her hand in marriage, but was rejected, as she was already affianced. Enraged and seeking revenge he waited at the church door as the maiden of his choice passed in to her marriage, and then, unperceived, he sent the needle into the breast of the bridegroom. The latter fainted and soon died, his strange illness baffling the skill of the physicians.

Tibaldo again asked for the maiden's hand and was again refused, and in a few days both her parents died in the same mysterious manner. The young lady went into a convent during her mourning and here Tibaldo pressed his suit, but, with an instinctive horror of the man, she declined his offer, whereupon he contrived to wound her. Upon her returning to her room she felt a pain in her breast, saw a single drop of blood and when surgeons were hastily summoned they cut into the wounded part, extracted the needle and saved her life.

Suspicion immediately fell upon the right culprit, his house was searched, the key found and Tibaldo was executed.

Honduras is one of the few regions with a smaller population than it had 50 years ago. Yet this is a land of mineral wealth, and rich tropical lands suitable for fruit, vegetables and coffee.